RAJYA SABHA

Monday, the 21st August 1995/30th Sravana 1917 (Saka)

The House met at Eleven of the Clock. The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

News-Item Regarding International Business Transactions

@ * 241. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA.

SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India among the most corrupt Nations: Report" as reported in the 'Pioneer, dated 16th July 1995;

(b) if so whether according to the survey conducted by 'Transparency International" it has been revealed that there is corruption in the International business transactions;

(c) if so. what are the details thereof; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Transparency International (TO is reported to be a Berlin based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO). Tl has released a so-called '1995 Tl Corruption Index' which is reported to be an assessment undertaken for Tl by a German economist in which seven existing surveys of international business interests and financial journalists have been analysed and collated.

The index released by Tl does not reveal the background of agencies which carried out the survey, the methodology adopted for the survey or the credentials of the business interests and financial journalists who were surveyed. The credentials of the economist who is reported to have collated these surveys as also the credentials of Tl have not been revealed. The index is not based on any specific cases or empirical data but seems to be based on perceptions of some business interests, details of which are not available. As such the report does not merit any specific reaction.

@ Previously Starred Question 102 postponed from 7th August 1995.

Allocation of Essential Commodities to Uttar Pradesh

*242. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the essential commodities allocated to Uttar Pradesh are as per its requirements; and

(b) if not. what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) and (b) The allocation and off-take of rice, wheat, levy sugar and Superior Kerosene Oil for the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Uttar Pradesh during 1994-95 were as follows: -

Commodity	1994-95 Allocation (in '000 MTs)	Offtake
Wheat	1185.60	203.20
Rice	549.60	197.20
Sugar*	652.49	
Superio Kerosene Oil	1014.65	927.78

(*Offtake of sugar is assumed to be 100%)

2. Bulk allocation of key essential commodities for the PDS is made to States/UTs by the Central Government taking into account availability Of stocks in the Central Pool; demands received from the State/UTs, *inter se* requirements of States/UTs. pattern of consumption in the past and seasonal factors. Allocation of commodities for the PDS is supplemental in nature and is not meant to meet the total requirements of any State/UT.